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## *Kent Austin*



Kent Austin attended the University of Mississippi, setting many passing records for the Rebels which earned him a spot in the Ole Miss Hall of Fame in 2000.

Austin was a 12<sup>th</sup> round draft pick for the St. Louis Cardinals in 1986. He made his way into the CFL in 1987 with the Saskatchewan Rough Riders playing with them until 1993 leading the Green and White to their second Grey Cup victory in 1989. After passing for 474 yards in that celebrated victory over Hamilton, Austin was presented with the Grey Cup MVP Trophy.

After leaving the Riders, Austin went on to claim his second Grey Cup ring in 1994 when he quarterbacked the B.C. Lions to the Championship, followed by one season with the Argonauts before rounding out his playing career in 1996 with the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Over the course of his playing career, this Tennessee native broke many CFL records placing him in numerous passing categories in the league's record books. He remains the CFL's ninth all-time passer with 36,030 yards. His 57.6 yard completion average is the third best only behind Doug Flutie and Tom Clements. Kent is one of only four players to pass for more than 6,000 yards in a single season. He was inducted into the Saskatchewan Roughrider Plaza of Honor in 1999.

2003 transitioned Austin into the coaching ranks as the quarterback's coach for the Ottawa Renegades. He served as the offensive coordinator for the Toronto Argonauts from 2004-2006, helping coach the Argos to a Grey Cup Championship in 2004.

Kent Austin reached the pinnacle of his success in his first season as a CFL head coach. After being named the 26<sup>th</sup> head coach in the history of the Saskatchewan Roughriders, he led the team to a 12-6 regular season record, secured the club's first home playoff game since 1988 and added three more victories in the post-season to claim the third Grey Cup Championship in Roughriders history. In 2008 Austin returned to his alma mater to become the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach for The University of Mississippi.

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